



Dear DDS Class of 2025,

Congratulations! You have made it! It is with great pleasure that I welcome you to our dental school – a home where you will, over the course of four years, develop yourselves as clinicians, colleagues, patient educators, and professionals. You will make friendships and acquaintances here that will last you a lifetime as you grow into strong leaders of our community.

At times, this path that you are on will demand a lot of effort from you and challenge you in many ways, some familiar and some new. With this in mind, I encourage you all to take part in the orientation week's (O-week) events, whether delivered virtually or in small groups (depending on what Covid-19 will allow). It is a fantastic way to get to know your classmates. Having friends who know exactly what you are going through on a day-to-day basis is an invaluable asset and participating in O-week is the best way to begin making these friendships.

Throughout your journey at this school, the University of Western Ontario's Dental Student Society, *UWODSS*, will be alongside you. Please take a moment to scroll through the UWODSS website (<https://www.uwodss.com/>) to learn more about it, what it has to offer you, and, if interested, how you can get involved. Shortly after beginning your first term in September, you will elect a class president to be your representative on the UWODSS council; someone who represents your interests and advocates for them to our student body and faculty. If this is something that interests you, please give some thought as to what unique values you can bring to our council that would benefit your fellow classmates.

If you have any questions, concerns, or just want to talk to someone who has been at the school for three years now (trust me, your time here will fly by!) please send me an email at [gsigel@uwo.ca](mailto:gsigel@uwo.ca). I am looking forward to meeting each of you and working with you to make our experiences as dental students the best they can possibly be!

Warmest regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Gregory Sigel', written in a cursive style.

Gregory Sigel

UWODSS President, DDS Class of 2022